



Nigeria Governors' Forum

MINUTES OF MEETING

OF

10TH NOVEMBER, 2008

AT

**KWARA STATE GOVERNOR'S LODGE
ASOKORO, ABUJA.**

ATTENDANCE

Their Excellencies:

S/No	Name	State	Designation
1	Dr. A.B. Saraki	Kwara	Governor/Chairman
2	Segun Oni	Ekiti	Governor
3	Aliyu M. Wamakko	Sokoto	Governor
4	Isa Yuguda	Bauchi	Governor
5	Erelu Olusola Obada	Osun	Deputy-Governor
6	Murtala Nyako	Adamawa	Governor
7	Aliyu Akwe Doma	Nasarawa	Governor
8	Arc M. Namadi Sambo	Kaduna	Governor
9	Abdullahi, T.M	Kano	Deputy-Governor
10	Uduaghan, E.E. (Dr)	Delta	Governor
11	Muhktar, A. Anka	Zamfara	Deputy-Governor
12	Sai'du N. Usman	Kebbi	Governor
13	Suswam, G.T	Benue	Governor
14	Omolade Oluwateru	Ondo	Deputy-Governor
15	Hon. Ahmed Musa Ibeto	Niger	Deputy Chief Servant
16	Hon. Chibuike Amaechi	Rivers	Governor
17	Ikedi Ohakim	Imo	Governor
18	Godswill Akpabio	Akwa Ibom	Governor
19	Jonah D. Jang	Plateau	Governor
20	Ahmed M. Gumel	Jigawa	Governor
21	Ibrahim S. Shema	Katsina	Governor
22	Mohammed Danjuma Goje	Gombe	Governor
23	Liyel Imoke	Cross River	Governor

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM
HELD AT THE KWARA GOVERNOR'S LODGE ON 10TH
NOVEMBER 2008**

	NOTES/OBSERVATIONS	ACTION
<p>A</p>	<p>COMMENCEMENT</p> <p>The meeting started by 7.24 pm with opening prayers said by the Kebbi State Governor.</p>	
<p>B</p>	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.</p> <p>The following amendments and observations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Page 3, item C, 'The Forum resolved a follows' to read 'the Forum resolved as follows'. • On page 4, item D, line 2, 're-planned' amended to read 're-positioned'. • On the same page, line 4, 'repeal' was amended to read 'cancellation'. • On Page 5, item 4 A was expunged. • The Secretariat was further advised to include a column for 'action' in the minutes for 'matters arising'. <p>In the absence of any further amendments/corrections/observations, the Sokoto State Governor moved for adoption of the minutes and was seconded by Governor of Kaduna State.</p>	
<p>C</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING.</p> <p>The chairman appealed to members who were yet to fulfill their financial obligations to the Forum to do so.</p>	

The Governor of Ekiti State and Chairman of the Forum's committee on Millennium Development Goals (MDG), in his report informed members that the present model used by the MDG would be used for the last time in 2008. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) model, which had been recommended at the last meeting would commence in the year 2009. He would maintain contact with the Senior Special Assistant (SSAP) to the President on MDG in case there were any changes to the UBE model as presently constituted.

Members agreed that the Forum must make its position on this subject clear to the office of the SSAP.

1.0 GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS.

The attention of members was called to the prevailing economic crisis and the consequent decline in the price of crude oil from a high of \$145 per barrel to about \$59 and to an all time low of \$45 per barrel. Members expressed the view that this would have serious implications on the 2009 Budget and particularly on State expenditure.

The forum examined ways of resolving this unfortunate state of affairs. It was suggested that there was a need to look at alternative sources of energy and other kinds of internally generated revenues (IGRs). Members also expressed the view that another way of confronting this situation was by taking a genuine look at the plight of the Niger-Delta.

After extensive deliberation on this issue, it was agreed:

- i) That the Federal Government would be urged to raise the benchmark on the price of crude oil to at least \$50.
- ii) The Federal Government should inject more funds into the system. The Forum

would have a position which would be canvassed at the next National Economic Council meeting and the vice-president would be urged to convene a meeting of the Economic Council to specifically address the matter.

- iii) The issue of job and wealth creation would be looked into, with emphasis on the extent of the Federal Government involvement in jobs and wealth creation as well as the extent to which states come into same.

2.0 PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION APPROVING SOURCING OF THE POWER SECTOR SPECIAL INTERVENTION FUND.

The Forum was presented with a list of the states that had passed the Resolution sourcing the Power Sector Fund.

The States that were yet to pass the Resolution were urged to do so.

3.0 PASSAGE OF THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT & PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT.

Following the same process, twenty three (23) States were identified as having passed these bills and the Chairman encouraged States that have not passed the Bill to do so.

4.0 CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW.

Members were reminded that the Constitutional Review process was on and the need for the Forum to articulate its positions on constitutional matters was stressed.

The Forum resolved as follows:

- i) To set up a Committee that would look into the issues and take a position.
- ii) The Committee would examine the last Constitutional Review Process and the 185

- Resolutions passed at that exercise.
- iii) Re-visit the revenue sharing formula which had been contentious.

5.0 PERMANENT SECRETARIAT PROJECT.

The Consultant in charge of the secretariat Project presented an update summary of its activities. The Report which was distributed to members contained among other information:

- i) Following the application by seventeen (17) companies for pre-qualification, six (6) companies were invited to tender for the construction of the secretariat.
- ii) Of the six pre-qualified companies, only five (5) responded to the invitation to tender.
- iii) The following companies were recommended to the Forum for consideration as the contractors for this project:

- **SAGETO LIMITED**
- **SHELTER DEVELOPMENT LIMITED**
- **J.P. SIGMA NIGERIA LIMITED**

After deliberation on the submissions and capacities of the short-listed companies, the Forum agreed that the contract be awarded to SAGETO LIMITED subject to negotiations.

Members then raised queries on the mode of raising funds for the Project and the means of realising the returns on investment. They wondered what would happen if all the floors were not rented.

There were differing views on how to raise the funds. Whilst some members favoured borrowing from financial institutions, others were inclined towards equity.

D	CONCLUSION Ekiti State Governor moved for adjournment of the meeting and Rivers State Governor seconded. The meeting ended at 11.05pm while the Cross River State Governor said the closing prayers. Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum	